STOWMARKET

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

(part time)

MARJORY A. DAWSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

and

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTOR.

J. S. FISHER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

for the year

1950.

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STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices, Ipswich Road, STOWMARKET.

July, 1951.

To The Chairman and Members of the STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1950.

As you know, I was appointed in July, 1950, in succession to Dr. P.J.H.Clarke, and so the report is based on information and figures collected during his last months of office as well as during my first few months.

During my term of office I have worked in close association with Mr. Fisher, Sanitary Inspector, and Wish to thank him for his assistance and co-operation in carrying out the duties of your District Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area Population (Registrar General's	1,696 acres.
figures).	7,416.
Inhabited Houses	2,319.
Rateable Value	£47,265.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£176 (estimated).

BIRTHS. (Registrar General's figures).

LIVE BIRTHS.	M •	ਲ .	Total.
Total. Legitimate. Illegitimate.	57. 56.	F. 55. 53. 2.	112. 109. 3.
BIRTH RATE:-			
per 1,000 civilian population do. England and	= 7		15•1
Wales. Comparability factor.	- - -		15•8 1•08

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STILL BIRTHS. Total Legitimate Illegitimate	M. 1. 1.	F.	Total. 1. 1.
RATE :-			
per 1,000 sivilian population. do. do. England and Wales.	=		· 13 · 37
INFANTILE MORTALITY. (Under one yea	r). M.	<u>F.</u>	Total.
Total Legitimate Illegitimate	 	2.	2. 2.
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS O	F AGE.	<u>.</u>	
Nil.			
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE:-			
per 1,000 live births. do. do. England and Wales	. =		7•86)•8
DEATHS. (Registrar General's figures).	M • 35•	<u>F.</u> 39.	Total.
ALL CAUSES DEATH RATE :-	<i>55</i> •	29•	74.
per 1,000 civilian population.	=	9•	98
do. do. England and Wales. Comparability factor.	=	11.	· 6 · 94
CAUSES OF DEATH. Tuberculosis - respiratory.	M. 1. 1. 1. 4. 7. 3. 2. 1. 3 5. 3.	F1. 1. 1. 1. 2. 4. 3. 5. 2. 1. 1. 1. 2. 1. 1. 2. 1. 1. 2. 1. 1. 1. 2. 1. 1.	Total. 1. 1. 1. 1. 3. 1. 3. 8. 10. 8. 14. 4. 2. 6. 3.
Totals :-	35•	39.	74.

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	1948.	1949.	1950.	England & Wales 1950.	London 1950.
Inhabited Houses.	2,228.	2,273.	2,319.	_	
Estimated Population.	7,246.	7,292.	7,416.		-
Live Births.	125.	123.	112.	_	_
Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	17. 25.	16•8 68	. 15•1,	15•8.	17•8.
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	8.0.	8°13 .	17.86.	29•8•	26•3•
Death Rate per 1,000 population.	10° <i>L</i> i9•	13•577	9•98.	11.6.	11•8.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. (excluding Tuberculosis) - Compiled from notifications received.

Ages									Admit-						
Diseases.	-1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total.	Hosp- ital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.				-	1	1		-				_	2.		-
Whooping Cough.	5	4	7	4	5	17		_	_		_	_	42.	1.	1.
Measles.	2	7	16	12	4	27	2	Proof.	2		_	_	72.		-,
Acute Primary Pneumonia.	_	-			_		•	1		-	1	3	5 .		-
Erysipelas.	<i></i>	_			_	5-		_	_	1	1	1	3.		-
Infective Hepatitis.	c-0	-		-	1	-1	-	1	1	_	-		4.	_	-
Totals :-									128.	1.	1.				

Whooping Cough showed the greatest incidence during the period mid-May to the end of July. One Female, aged 1 month, died.

Measles occurred mainly during the month of April.

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DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Pre-school population. (0 - 4)	710.
School population (5 - 14)	1,051.
Number of pre-school children immunised	411.
Total number of children immunised	1,239.
Percentage of pre-school children immunised	58.
Percentage of all children immunised	70.°4.
"Booster" treatment 1950	63.

For the fourth year in succession, no case of Diphtheria has been notified in the District.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulm	onary.	Non-Pu	lmonary.
М.	F.	<u>M.</u>	F.

- (i) New cases notified. *1. 1. 3. 3.
 - (* This case had previously been notified in another District).
- (ii) Ages of new cases :-

Pulmonary (Lungs):Male - 23 years. Female - 31 years.

Non-Pulmonary:Males:-3, 6, and 35 years. Females - 9, 9, and 49 years.

- (iii) Cases "crossed off the Register as recovered" during the year :-
 - 2 Pulmonary (Males 29 and 35 years). 1 Non-Pulmonary (Male - 19 years).
 - (iv) Cases "crossed off the Register by removal to other Districts or by death" during the year :-
 - 1 Pulmonary (Male 41 years) removed to another District.
 - . 2 Pulmonary (Male 50 years, and Female 48 years) Died.
 - (v) Cases on the Register at end of the year :-

Pulmonary. Non-Pulmonary. M. F. Total. M. F. Total. 12. 8. 20. 8. 15. 23.

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No cases came to notice for assistance under this Act.

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WATER SUPPLY.

- (i) The water supply for the area, and of its several parts, has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (ii) Samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector for bacteriological examination as follows:-
 - (a) Services off the town (Station Road) supply 5.
 (b) Services off the Poplar Hill supply 3.

Samples - one each from the town (Station Road) and Poplar Hill Waterworks - were taken for chemical analysis.

The "bacteriological" reports showed six "very satisfactory" and the other two "no evidence of harmful pollution".

The "chemical" reports were in both cases "The water is of high quality and free from pollution; it is very suitable for drinking and general purposes".

- (iii) The waters were not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.
 - (iv) No action in respect of any form of contamination was necessary.
 - (v) The number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied from public mains was as follows:-
 - (a) Direct to houses. 2,244 (Population approx. 7,190).
 - (b) By means of stand-pipes 10 (Population approx. 80).

In addition, 35 houses (population approx. 145) are supplied from the Stowupland Waterworks, which is in the Gipping Rural District.

SEWERAGE.

I am indebted to the Council's Surveyor for the following report:

"STOWMARKET SEVERAGE SCHEME.

After many years of deliberations, conferences, reports, and meetings, this half-century year saw the completion of Stage 1 of the approved scheme for the improvement of sewage disposal facilities in the town.

The operative date was July 15th, when, without ceremony, the stopper separating the old system from the new was withdrawn, and the new works came officially to life.

Thus, the old gas engines and pumps, (some 52 years old) and the producer gas plant, ceased to function. The old gas plant is now almost beyond repair, but, in a state of emergency, the old engines and pumps could be brought back into action within a few days.

Frequency of the second of the Under test, the new pumps, five in all, slightly exceeded the duty demanded.

The new works comprise :-

Screening Chamber.
Collecting Sump.
Pump Chamber.
Motor House.
Rising Main.
Balancing Tanks.

Lea Recorder and kiosk.
Upward Flow Settlement Tanks.
Sludge Drying Beds.
Supernatant Water Pumping
Station.
Concrete Access Road.

During the year, two important trade effluents were admitted to the system, and now no known trade waste finds its way to the river direct.

Many samples of mixed domestic sewage and trade wastes have been taken and analysed, the results of which will enable Stage 2 of the scheme to be designed in a form capable of the efficient final treatment of the combined discharges."

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Details of action taken with regard to meat and other foods, and of the inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls, and vehicles, and of food preparation premises, and of premises for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, and also information concerning ante- and post-mortem inspection of animals, including the table of carcases inspected and condemned, are contained in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

Three cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. The people concerned - two adults and one child - had been on a day trip to Whipsnade, and each had partaken of cream cakes. The Medical Officer of Health for the district was informed.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS.

No special campaigns have been organised, but all food premises in the district are periodically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE FORM 572.

A copy of this form is attached to this report, and copies have been distributed as required.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

MARJORY A. DAWSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices, Ipswich Road, STOWMARKET.

July, 1951.

To The Chairman and Members of the STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I beg to submit my fifth Annual Report, this being for the year 1950.

HOUSING.

In spite of the not inconsiderable progress which has been made in providing new accommodation, housing remains a major problem, with many families without separate housing accommodation. Until this need has been more nearly met, virtually no progress can be made in the replacement of unfit properties. Whilst it is not correct to say that there is any large number of totally unfit houses in the district, there is a considerable number of sub-standard houses which in more normal times would call for drastic action. The high labour and material costs and in many cases low rents render the maintenance of satisfactory conditions of repair of houses which are capable of being made fit one of extreme difficulty, and one hopes that an early solution, which is fair to both owners and tenants, will be found to this very pressing problem.

Four houses in a block - two in a very poor condition and two derelict - were made the subject to a Clearance Order under Sections 25 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936. One had only recently been purchased, for the purchaser's own occupation, and the other three were purchased after the Order had been made, and both owners appealed. A Local Inquiry was held, and schemes of re-conditioning submitted - in the case of the single house costing some £225, and in the other three, conversion into two dwelling houses at an estimated cost of £1,500. These schemes were accepted by the Ministry, subject to their being commenced within three months of notification to the respective owners, and the Clearance Order was therefore not confirmed.

Forty flats (Kent Road) were completed during the year as part of the Council's housing scheme, and five houses, and two bungalows were completed by private enterprise. Twenty flats and sixteen houses, in Kent and Curwen Roads, were under construction at the close of the year.

OVERCROWDING.

Three cases of overcrowding were abated, and one known case remained unabated. There are a number of border-line cases which do not actually infringe the standard laid down by the Housing Act, 1936, but which nevertheless amount to overcrowding.

DIRTY HOUSES.

The case referred to in my last Annual Report was resolved by the person concerned being removed to a Mental Home.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Two licences to station and use moveable dwellings were issued.

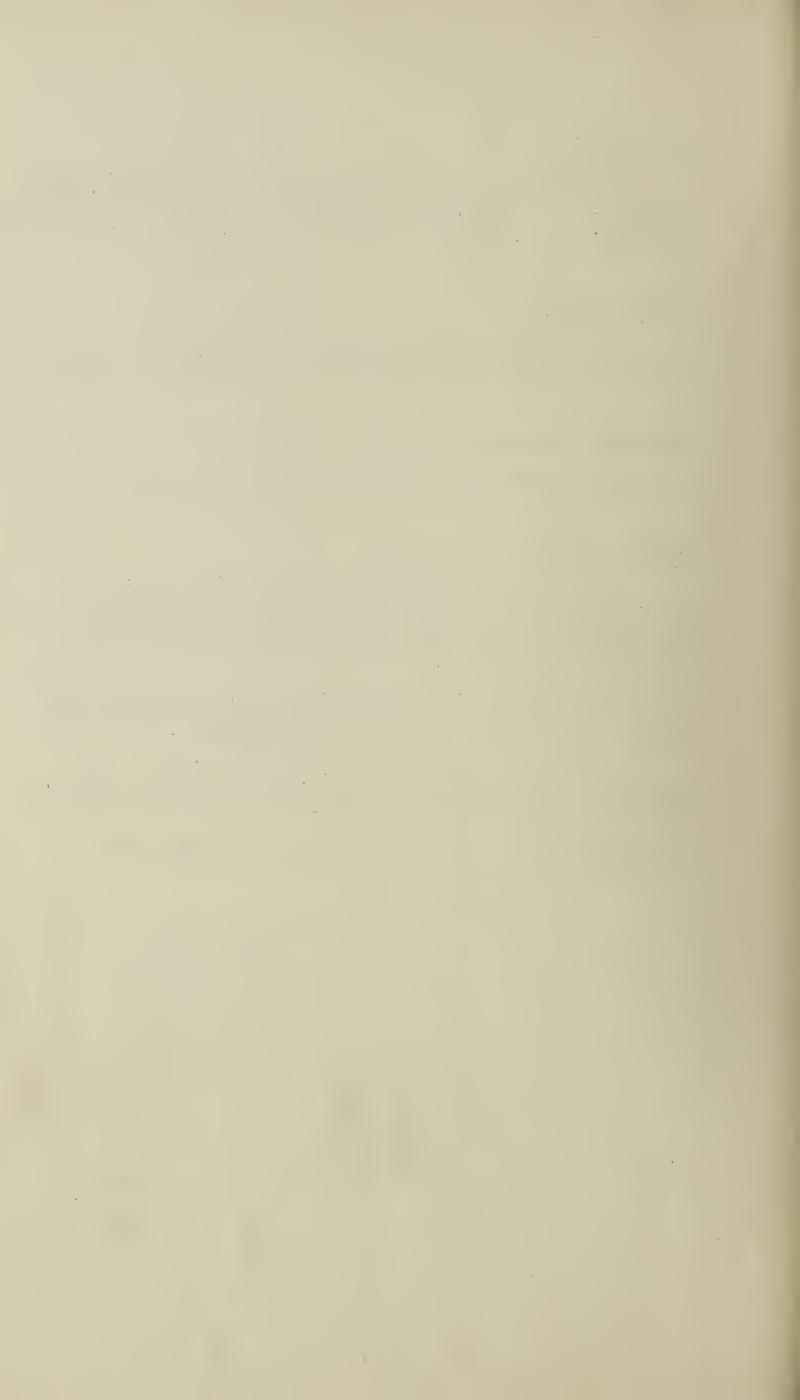
FOOD HYGIENE.

Close attention has been given to this subject, and periodical visits paid to all establishments engaged in food preparation and handling. The Market Fish, Fruit and Vegetable, and other food stalls, including ice cream, have been inspected weekly.

Nothing has arisen necessitating formal action, and prompt attention has generally been given to matters upon which it has been necessary to call attention.

An informed public opinion, of which there is some evidence, is of the utmost value in this particular work, as indeed in all Public Health work.

Brief details of the work carried are summarised as follows:



(a) Meat (Home Killed).

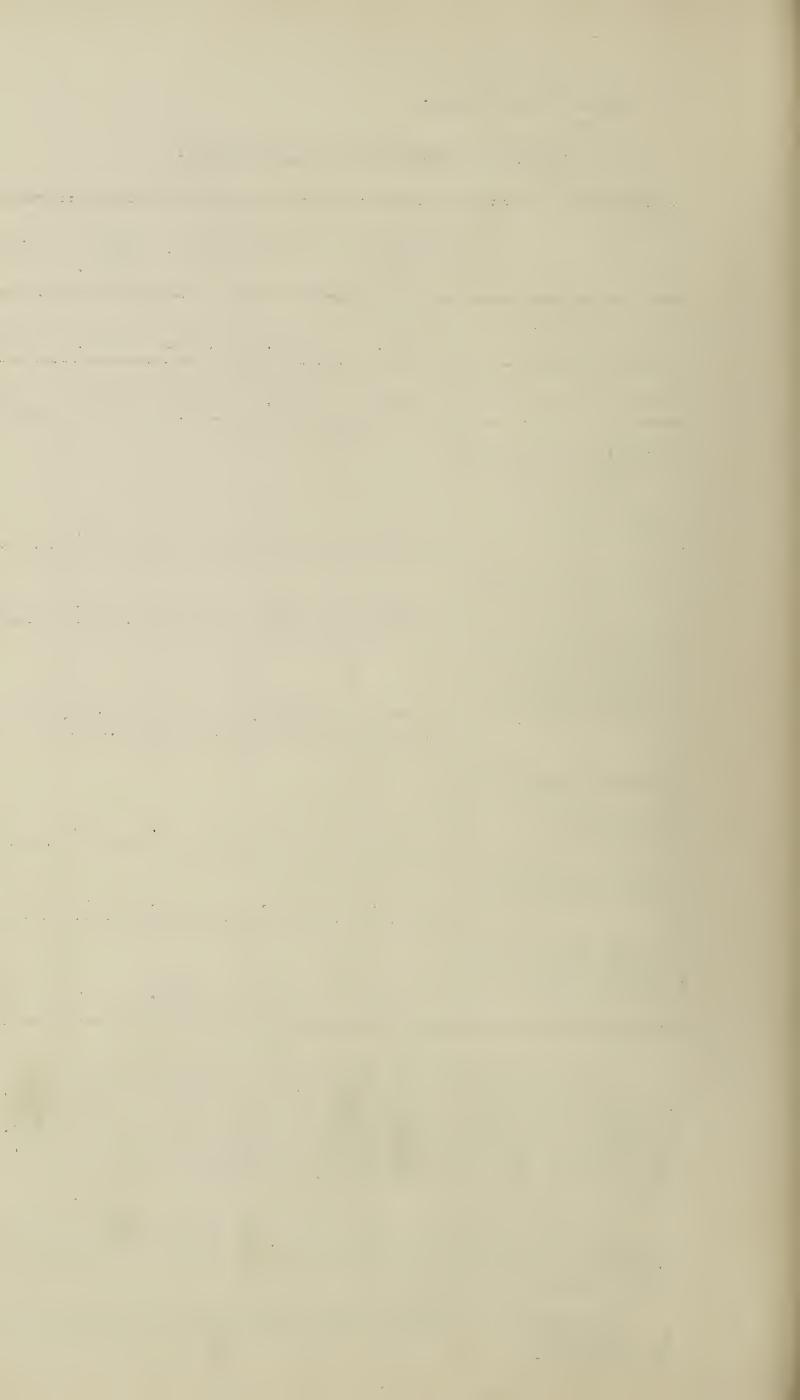
CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	876.	342,	1,156.	1,769.	504•
Number inspected.	876.	342.	1,156.	1,769.	504,
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned.	2,	3.	7.	4.	7.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	200.	75.	4.	21.	82.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	23°06,	22•81.	0•95•	1•41.	17 °66.
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned.	5.	8.	1.	•	1.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	51.	90.			16.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	6.39.	28•65.	0•09.		3•37•

A 100% inspection of all carcases and offals passing through the Government Central Slaughterhouse was maintained. In this connection, I am again indebted to the slaughterhouse manager, who deputised for me during absence on holiday, etc., and who has been most helpful and co-operative in every way. The Sanitary Inspector of the adjoining Rural District was available in case of need during my absences.

The total number of animals killed was 4646, and 10.089 tons of meat and offals \sim 12,671½lbs. of home killed meat and 9,700½lbs of offals — were condemned at the slaughterhouse as unfit for human consumption.

The number of animals killed exceeded by 565 those killed in 1949, and the amount of meat and offals condemned was less by $7.456\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.



(b) Imported Meat.

228 lbs of imported meat were condemned - 199 lbs.for Bone Taint; 5 lbs. fouled by dirt in transit; and 24 lbs. for Tuberculosis.

It is unusual to find Tuberculosis in imported meat, and this was discovered in the Popliteal Gland, which is a deepseated gland of the hindquarter.

(c) Tinned and Other Foods.

The following tinned and other foods were condemned :-

			los.	OZS.	
Fish.	26	tins.	18.	10.	Bulk 131 lbs.
Fruit.		tins.	130.	81/2.	40 fluid ozs.
Jams and Conserves.		tins. jars.	33° 1°	4½.	
Meat.	74	tins.	232.	9 1 .	
Milk.	_	tins.	210.	15.	equiv: $302\frac{1}{2}$ pints.
Vegetables.		tins. bottles.	132,	42.	52 fluiá ozs.
Miscell- aneous.		tins.	5 .	12.	
Totals :-		tins tc.	766.	5.	Bulk 131 lbs. 92 fluid ozs. eguiv: 302½ pints.

Total weight: - 0.543 tons (approx.) (0.812 tons in 1949).

(d) Total Weight of all foods condemned.

10.632 tons. (15.212 tons in 1949).

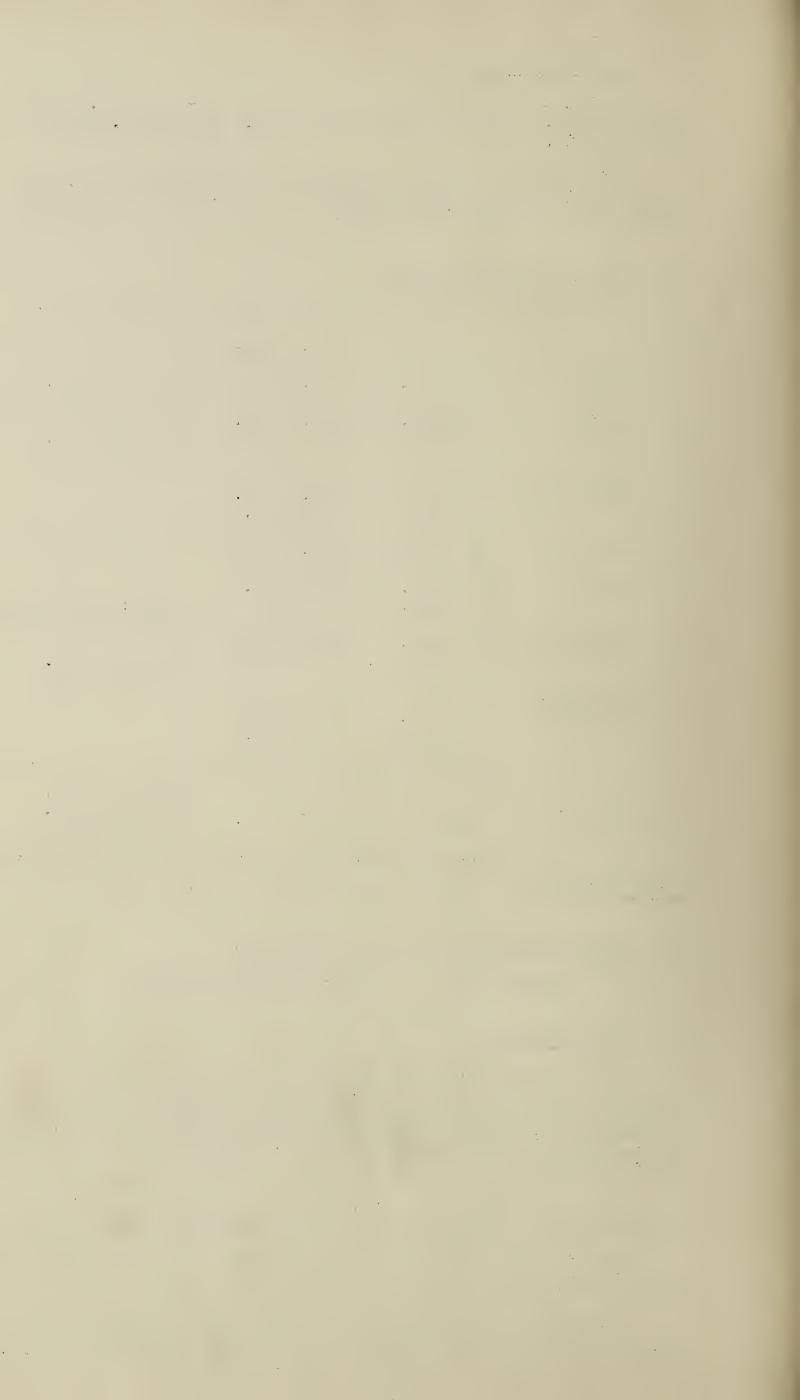
(e) Slaughterhouse.

The Government Central Slaughterhouse, which is the property of the Stowmarket Co-operative Society, has been maintained in generally good condition. During the year, after many requests, a much needed supply of constant hot water for the use of the slaughtermen and others engaged on the premises was installed.

It is understood that cold storage accommodation is soon to be provided, and this should meet a long felt want.

Two pigs were found on slaughter to be affected with Swine Fever, and all necessary action was taken.

It happens on occasion that animals are sent in as casualties in a condition which is suggestive of some amount of neglect or cruelty, and one such case was reported to the R.S.P.C.A. who took the matter up with the owner concerned.



(f) Transport of Meat.

This remains a thorny problem. A much improved type of vehicle, equipped for hanging meat in transit from the slaughterhouse to the retail shops, is being used in a district not many miles away, and similar vehicles are known to be operating in some other districts, but these have not so far made their appearance for Stowmarket and district deliveries, and the unsatisfactory vehicles referred to in previous reports have continued in use. Further representations were made to the Food Hygiene Division of the Ministry of Food, and I shall continue to press for an improved type of vehicle for this district.

(g) Food Premises.

Periodical visits were paid to all food premises, and regular inspections made of all food stalls in the market.

Five additions were made to the register of premises for the sale of Ice cream.

(h) Milk.

The Dairies were visited periodically, but no formal action was found to be necessary.

The Milk and Dairies Register contains details of three Dairy premises and five Milk Distributors - one for the sale of bottled milk only.

One Pasteurised Dealer's and two Tuberculin Tested Dealer's licences were renewed.

(i) Licensed Houses and Clubs.

During the year, the 22 licensed houses and three clubs were inspected with particular reference to the facilities for glass washing. None had sinks and hot and cold water readily available at or near the Counter. Two had a sink and hot water; three a sink and cold water; one a sink and no water, all discharging over external trapped gullies; two had sinks and cold water; and one a sink and no water, discharging over buckets; and three clubs had sinks and cold water. The remaining 13 licensed houses were dependent on bowls, (one a wooden tub), in which to wash (!) and rinse glasses after use. As a result of representations made to the owners of the houses, 13 were fitted with metal sinks with hot and cold water over, in the Bars, made to discharge over external trapped gullies, and similar provision was promised for the remainder.

WATER SUPPLY.

Eight samples of water were taken from services off the town's two main supplies and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological examination. Six were reported as "very satisfactory" and the other two as showing "no evidence of harmful pollution".

One sample each from the two main supplies were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis and reports on both were that "the water is of high quality and free from pollution, and very suitable for drinking and other purposes."

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SWIMMING POOL.

One sample of water from the swimming pool was taken at the height of the season, and submitted for Bacteriological Examination, and was reported as "very satisfactory".

SEVERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewers and sewage disposal works are under the direct control and supervision of the Surveyor.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Routine inspections have been carried out, but no serious defects or infringements found.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

A number of inspections were carried out, and eighteen informal notices given to remedy defects and infringements. Details are given on Form 572 attached to the Medical Officer's Report.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

Attention had again to be called on several occasions to the amount of smoke and grit being emitted from the Laundry and C.W.S.Creamery chimneys, and whilst in meither case did it amount to sufficient to justify formal action under the smoke nuisance sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, it was nevertheless a source of considerable annoyance to the respective neighbourhoods. The position is aggravated by the fact that both these establishments are in residential areas.

The Creamery was again the worst offender, and as the Manager insisted that inferior guality fuel was the chief cause, the Ministry of Fuel and Power were communicated with, and Engineers were sent down to investigate. Certain recommendations were made, some at least of which were acted upon, and it is understood that some higher quality fuel was supplied. The emissions have since been less frequent and less dense than had been the case previously.

Both establishments will continue to be kept under observation.

CONVENIENCES AT LICENSED AND PUBLIC PREMISES.

These were subjected to periodical inspection, and were generally found clean and well maintained. Some improvement in lighting was effected, and minor defects remedied as a result of informal action.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Responsibility for these was transferred to the Public Health Department early in the year. Every effort has been made to keep them in a clean condition, and to combat the efforts of those whose abilities and ambitions appear to be limited to foul writings on the walls and of otherwise fouling the conveniences.

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INFECTIOUS DISELSE.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever, three of Erysipelas, and four of Infective Hepatitis were investigated, and necessary action taken.

FOOD POISONING.

Three cases of food poisoning were investigated. These occurred among three of a party who had visited Whipsnade, and cream cakes consumed there were suspected as the probable cause. The Medical Officer communicated with the District concerned.

DISINFESTATION.

One bug disinfestation was carried out.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

This Act came into force on 31st March, 1950, and transferred and augmented permanent powers from the County Council to the District Council. Under it, the primary obligation is placed upon the Local Authority to ensure that, as far as practicable, its area is kept free from rats and mice. Under the old Act, the primary duty was laid upon individual occupiers, with power of enforcement by the local authority. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are the controlling authority, and they are directly responsible for food and food premises, all other lands and premises being the responsibility of the local authority.

The arrangement Which commenced on 1st April, 1948, Whereby one rodent operator is employed on alternate days with the Gipping Rural District Council, has proved satisfactory and adequate so far as this district is concerned, and, I understand, with the Gipping Rural District Council also.

A large number of premises were visited, 201 being treated, resulting in a known kill of 1,048 rats and 67 mice. The continuance of free and prompt treatment of private dwellings is a major factor in keeping these pests down.

The sewers received two maintenance treatments, but showed no evidence of major infestation.

RIVER POLLUTION.

The elimination of trade wastes from the River Gipping resulted, as was to be expected, in a marked improvement in the condition of the river where it passes through the town, and it would appear that the main causesof the trouble which has persisted for so many years have now been largely overcome. The river would look much better if it were not used as a dump for unwanted tins, cycle wheels and frames, and other junk.

The watercourse from Combs has not been the source of any further trouble.

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REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Early in the year, the responsibility for refuse collection and disposal was transferred from the Surveyor's department to the Public Health department. The opportunity was taken to review the methods then in operation, and a comprehensive report was prepared and submitted to the Council, dealing with the subject under four headings, all related and designed to improve the service and reduce the cost, viz: Refuse Bins, Refuse Collection, Refuse Tip, and Trade Refuse.

Action on the report was taken as follows :-

Refuse Bins.

An effort was made to ensure that every house was supplied with a proper refuse bin and to this end Section 75 of the Public Health Act,1936, was put into effect. Two hundred B.S.S. 2½ cubic feet capacity bins were purchased and made available to those requiring them, at a charge of 4/- per annum, as allowed by the Local Authorities (Charges for Dustbins) Order, 1949. Ninety-eight informal notices were served, and as a result 43 bins were privately supplied and 55 of the Council's bins were issued by the end of the year. Every householder was circularised with information concerning the proper use and care of refuse bins.

Refuse Collection.

The collecting rounds were re-organised, and collecting skips provided for all but the short carries. This enabled the collecting team to be reduced by one man, and after initial difficulties, the scheme was found to work perfectly satisfactorily. A new rear loading refuse collecting vehicle, already ordered was brought into use.

Refuse Tip.

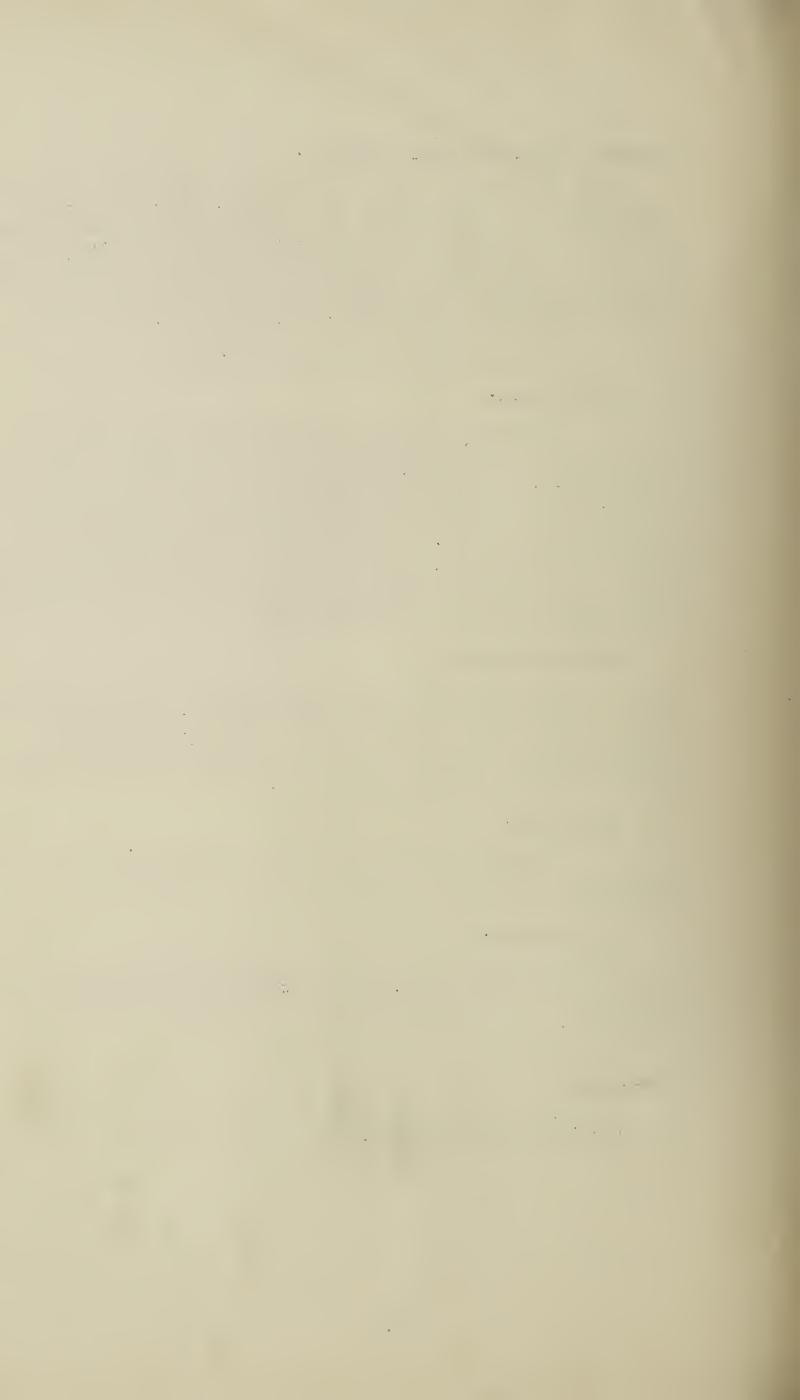
A form of controlled tipping, restricted by the lack of adequate supplies of suitable covering material, was continued.

Trade Refuse.

The charge for collecting trade refuse was increased from 10/- to £1 per annum, or more where quantities were excessive. The new charges more nearly meet the cost of collection.

COMPLAINTS.

Two hundred and fifty three complaints of various kinds were received and dealt with.



NOTICES.

Two hundred and thirty four informal notices, verbal or by letter, were given. No Statutory Notices were served, other than those relating to the Clearance Order referred to under the paragraph headed "Housing".

CONCLUSION.

The report summarises briefly the work which has been carried out. A considerable number of house repairs and other work has been executed, and owners have been found generally willing, so far as they are able, to keep their properties in reasonable repair and to comply with the requirements of the local authority.

I acknowledge with appreciation the continued good relations with and the co-operation of the Council as a whole, and of the Medical Officer of Health and other officers of the Council.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

J.S.FISHER.

Sanitary Inspector, and Meat and Foods Inspector.

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